

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 8**  
**INCIDENT NO. 96-37**  
**DATE: April 21, 1996**                      **TIME: 3:00 p.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer  
State Capitol  
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood. (Separate situation reports are being issued regarding Devils Lake, incident #96-01.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: In addition to previous reports, an individual was drowned when he drove around a barricade and his vehicle was swept by flood waters off ND Highway 66 near Drayton.
3. DAMAGE: Inflows into Lake Ashtabula exceeding 7,850 cfs (cubic feet per second) from April 19-21 required a Baldhill Dam release of up to 5,500 cfs. As inflows decrease today, outflows will be reduced to 5,000 cfs. It is anticipated that the pool level will reach 1,267 feet M.S.L. The Sheyenne River at Valley City is 18.7 feet and is expected to crest near 19.5 feet on April 22.

Flood waters in the Upper Sheyenne River Basin will raise river levels at Fort Ransom, Lisbon and Kindred. The increased river levels will threaten existing dikes. The Sheyenne River is expected to crest at 20 to 20.5 feet in Lisbon on April 24; flood stage is 11 feet. The river at Kindred is expected to crest at 22 to 23 feet on April 27; flood stage is 16 feet.

The Red River at Grand Forks is cresting at 45.8 feet today.

Flood water depths on the northbound lane of I-29 forced closure at mile marker 169 in eastern Walsh County on April 20. Traffic is being rerouted to US Highway 81, from Manvel to Grafton.

The Pembina County communities of Drayton and Pembina are experiencing rapid increases in river levels. At Drayton, the river level rose to 41.2 feet and is expected to crest at 42 feet on April 25. The river at Pembina rose to 48.1 feet and is expected to crest at 52.5 feet on April 28. The Red River bridges at Drayton and Joliette are closed due to high water.

Inflows at Jamestown Dam have raised the reservoir to a record level of 1,444 feet M.S.L. Releases of 1,100 cfs, the combined amount released from Jamestown (900 cfs) and Pipestem dams (200 cfs), are requiring limited flood protection activities to date by Jamestown officials.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Volunteers continued to play a vital role in disaster operations as they filled sandbags and provided meals to displaced families and fellow volunteers in eastern North Dakota. The rapidly rising waters prompted a need for additional help with sandbagging efforts. The North Dakota VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster) contacted churches to request activation of parishioners and volunteers. Members of the United Methodist Church Disaster Response Network provided meals to volunteers in Drayton, and one of its youth fellowship groups helped with sandbagging operations in Grand Forks.

The Minn-Kota Chapter of the American Red Cross sent six cots and blankets to the Emergency Operations Center in Pembina County.

Nearly 500 volunteers participated in 24-hour sandbag operations in Valley City and rural Barnes County.

The Salvation Army delivered 75 cleanup kits to Pembina County.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The Governor activated the N.D. National Guard to support flood-fight activities.

The Valley City Commission issued an emergency declaration on April 19, 1996. Valley City officials and volunteers completed the efforts to raise and reinforce existing dikes. Their efforts were supported by 12 Guard members, who used four dump trucks and two tractor trailer low boys. The Guard provided technical expertise and hauled diking materials.

N.D. Division of Emergency Management dispatched staff members to help coordinate flood-fight operations. A staff member is currently assigned to Barnes and Ransom counties. The Division's Director provided on-site operational assistance to officials in Pembina and Grand Forks counties.

Fort Ransom and Lisbon officials and volunteers are taking measures to reinforce and raise present dikes. The N.D. State Water Commission dispatched an engineer and survey crew to Lisbon to provide technical assistance to city officials on dike levels. Lisbon received 25,000 sandbags from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to the two bulldozers with operators, the N.D. National Guard reassigned seven personnel, five dump trucks and one front-end loader from Valley City to Lisbon.

Residents of Kindred and the surrounding area are developing plans for protective action against flood waters. Kindred received 10,000 sandbags from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Kindred City Council issued an emergency declaration on April 17. Richland County residents south of Kindred received 12,000 sandbags and three semi trailer loads of sand from county officials.

In response to the increased Red River levels in Grand Forks, officials closed the Point Bridge and extended the diking operation by adding dikes at Sorlie Bridge and the downtown water plant and raising the level of the Belmont Road Dike. The city has purchased a second sandbagging machine.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided 26,000 sandbags to Pembina County, which were delivered by the N.D. National Guard on April 20. Extensive diking operations are underway at Drayton and the city of Pembina. Dike walkers at Drayton and the city of Pembina are continually monitoring dikes on a 24-hour basis.

The N.D. State Water Commission has engineering staff working in Cass, Grand Forks, Walsh and Pembina counties. The Commission also has been supporting flood measurements and flood forecasting.

The Board of Logan County Commissioners issued an emergency declaration on April 17, 1996.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation officials are monitoring Jamestown Dam levels on 24-hour basis.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: All local requests for assistance have been met.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: The St. Paul District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has provided technical and equipment assistance to state and local officials.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The Pembina County Water Board, the National Weather Service and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are working with Manitoba officials to predict the Pembina River's second crest, which will result as spring runoff flows from Manitoba to North Dakota.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas C. Friez  
State Director